

# DEDICATE ASYLUM FOR HEBREW INFANTS

Gov. Dix the Principal Speaker at  
New Kingsbridge Institution,  
Which Is Now Open.

## MANY CITY OFFICIALS THERE

Controller Prendergast Sees in the  
Spirit Which Founded This Institu-  
tion an Example for the City.

With Gov. Dix as the principal speaker and in the presence of many city officials and citizens, the new Hebrew Infant Asylum at Aqueduct Avenue and Kingsbridge Road, the Bronx, was dedicated yesterday morning at 10:30 o'clock. About 150 children under five years of age were transferred to their new home here on last Sunday from an outgrown building in Third Avenue. It is said to be one of the best equipped for its purpose in the country. It is a solid, five-story red brick structure, attractive outside, and spic-and-span within, with play rooms, kindergarten rooms, nurseries, and wards sufficient to care for nearly three times the number now there.

Just before Gov. Dix spoke yesterday in receiving the institution on behalf of the State, he was presented with a silver key to the main door of the asylum proper, and the President of the institution, Benno Neuberger, in presenting it, asked the Governor to be the foster-father of the little children there.

"God bless you, Gov. Dix," said Mr. Neuberger feelingly, as he handed him the key, "may God preserve you long at the head of this State, and at the head of the National Government, too, to guard the welfare of these little children and of us all."

### The Governor's Speech.

In response, Gov. Dix said:

"I esteem it an honor and a privilege to have a share in the programme and enjoyment of this auspicious occasion. In the name of the people of the State of New York I accept these magnificent buildings and bid you Godspeed in the work of charity and benevolence which finds such noble expression in the splendid edifices that are to adorn this site, and for years to come minister to the needs of the infants and children who shall be brought within their portals.

"To me it is a happy omen that this ceremony occurs on the birthday anniversary of the immortal Washington. His life of absolute devotion to the noblest ideals finds a fitting complement in the large vision and inspiring altruism of the men and women by whose unselfish labor and personal sacrifice these magnificent buildings have been conceived and created.

"Washington is, and ever will be, the

most beloved of all Americans, for a deeper reason than that he was the Father of his Country. His achievement was even greater than the establishment of the independence of the colonies. - He was the first among the statesmen and warriors of his day and generation to inculcate by living example the lesson that the talent intrusted to us by the Author of our being is to be used and developed for the common good. A broad and almost divine spirit of unselfishness constituted the basis of the patriotism of George Washington. The quality of complete self-denial and willing service to his fellow-men that was woven into the very fibre of his being has made Washington the one unique figure in American history. Hence it is that you have done well to associate with the birthday of George Washington this asylum and home, born of self-denial and dedicated to the service of mankind.

"Patriotism is a great unifying force among a people. But to make it a humanizing force operating for the true glory of State or Nation, patriotism must be blended through and through with the spirit of human sympathy that speaks in deeds of charity and benevolence. Otherwise love of country will be little more than a barren idealism, finding expression only in abstractions and in war. But when allied with philanthropic endeavor founded on heart-felt sympathy, patriotism finds its full potentiality and inculcates the divine lesson that man must not alone be willing to die on a battlefield for the honor of the country of his birth or adoption, but that he must also live and, if need be, die for his fellow-men.

### The Coming of the Brotherhood.

"Brother is a nobler word than com-patriot. When this lesson is fully learned by men of all races and of all nations we shall be near the dawn of universal peace and the fulfillment of God's purpose in creating spheres and inhabiting them with men made in His own image and endowed with mind and soul.

"The institution you dedicate to-day does not simply teach this momentous lesson; it translates the lesson into a concrete and beautiful reality. We talk of community of races and of the elaborate structure of a common civilization. These are mere empty phrases unless they are vitalized by the life-giving elixir of an absorbing interest in the welfare of our common brother.

"Active sympathy and co-operation to alleviate hardship and suffering are incomparably of greater value than all the spectacular attributes that work for individual selfishness and National aggrandizement. What have we from the fathers and the prophets that is of such far-reaching import in human relations and of greater authority than the injunction coming from Moses and Isaiah that 'with reverence we must use all our powers and goods as a trust from God for His end of ends, the establishment of His kingdom of love and service among men'?

"In letter and spirit you are to-day obeying this great injunction. That is why I unfeignedly thank you for the privilege of joining in your exercises. This asylum and home, dedicated to the care and training of children and orphans, speaks of the heart and hope of the spirit of humanity. It is an organized endeavor to put into deeds the teachings of our

common religion. State and city are ennobled and enriched by its existence. As the years roll by these buildings of stone and mortar will be a convincing witness that mankind is constantly moving toward those higher ideals which inspire us to advance steadily onward and upward until we shall finally attain the full stature of humanity and be linked with the great heart and purpose of the Most High God."

### An Example for the City.

Controller Prendergast, following the Governor, said: "What would be the conditions in this city to-day if the men and women had not been impelled to do this charitable work and had left it entirely to the city? It would have been chaos."

Referring to Commissioner of Charities Michael J. Drummond and his work, Mr. Prendergast added:

"Mr. Drummond has said that it is necessary for the city to extend to the public the same care as you do to your people. I say he has accomplished much, and to do what he wishes he will have to obtain the consent of the city administration, and so far as the Finance Department is concerned I assure him that it will extend to him that aid."

"This is the finest example of charitable work in this city, the very flower of religion and civilization," said Commissioner Drummond. "I am reminded of Gov. Stuyvesant, who refused to admit early Jewish settlers at New York on the ground of fear that they would become a public charge. That is a long 265 years ago, and in spite of the admirable example of the Jewish charities of this country during this long period with the care of Jewish immigrants, how strange it seems that the fear of Jewish immigrants becoming public charges should still be over Ellis Island. The Jewish people have kept their promise to take care of the Jewish immigrants at all times, and their work and charities are shown by deeds in the records."

### Subscriptions to Pay Off Mortgage.

Other speakers were N. Taylor Phillips, Chairman of the Dedication Committee, and Julius M. Mayer. The Rev. Dr. Joseph Silverman made the opening prayer, and the Rev. Dr. J. L. Magnes delivered the benediction.

The dedication of the isolation hospital building of the Ivan M. Stettenheim memorial was held near by, the Rev. H. Pereira Mendes and the Rev. J. L. Magnes, President of the New York Jewish Community, making the addresses.

The asylum cost \$400,000. Subscriptions to pay off a mortgage of \$125,000 were made by some of the 700 guests and visitors to the amount of \$8,000. The Ladies' Sewing Circle, Mrs. S. Jopha, President; Miss Mille Stone, Mrs. Bert Schueur, Mrs. Benjamin Strauss, Mrs. H. Friedman, Mrs. Harris, and Mrs. King, contributed \$1,000. The other largest contributors to the fund were Frederick Hirschhorn, \$2,500; Emma Stern Worthelm, Max Nathan, and S. F. Blyer, \$500 each, and the Young Folks' League of the asylum, \$250.